

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2937 without my signature.

Despite advancements in technology and the best efforts of law enforcement, innocent people sometimes are arrested or convicted of crimes they did not commit. I applaud efforts to address injustice done when an innocent person has been erroneously incarcerated and support measures to help such an individual receive appropriate compensation or services. However, I cannot support this bill because it would create a state-mandated local program resulting in increased General Fund costs.

This bill would require counties to provide case management services for two years to persons wrongfully incarcerated and, upon request, for any person wrongfully incarcerated and released since January 1, 2002. The state already compensates these individuals, even though wrongful convictions occur at the local level. Any programs to further assist these persons should therefore be funded at the local level. In addition, many of these individuals could otherwise be eligible for local programs without mandating the provision of case management services.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger